

NEWS RELEASE
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SPRUCE AND PINE TREES AT RISK OF INSECT INFESTATION

An insect called the *Ips* bark beetle is infesting spruce and pine trees, primarily in the bench areas of Sandy and Holladay, but in some other Wasatch Front locations as well. Without proper care infested trees may die.

“The insect typically takes flight in mid-April to attack a new host tree,” explained Colleen Keyes, forest health coordinator for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. “While a healthy tree can usually fight off the invader a tree under stress is very susceptible to invasion, and many urban trees are under stress.” Proper watering of trees will help maintain health and enable the tree itself to ward off the invader.

If a tree is under stress then it may be susceptible to attack by the beetle. Concerned homeowners can prevent damage to landscaping provided the tree is not heavily infested. “Spraying with a registered insecticide that contains the chemical Carbaryl will usually protect the tree from attack or reduce damage, and is effective for about one year,” advises Keyes. Carbaryl is found in many commercial insecticides, several of which are registered for use against the *Ips* bark beetle and should be available in home and garden stores. These insecticides are most effective when sprayed using a high-pressure sprayer with a carwash type nozzle. It is important that the entire tree be well drenched, especially the main trunk and large branches.

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